

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-10 USSS-00 AF-10

A-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /136 W

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R 280746Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9581

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6763

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ETRN, IS

SUBJECT: ICAO: ISRAELI POSTURE RE AUG 10 INTERCEPTION OF
MEA AIRLINER

1. HAARETZ AUG 28 HAS STORY BY MARGALIT THAT MRS MEIR HAS HAD "SEARCHING DISCUSSIONS" WITH EBAN OVER PAST TWO DAYS CONCERNING REPORT THAT EBAN AT INFORMAL POLITICAL GATHERING AUGUST 23 CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S DECISION TO INTERCEPT LEBANESE AIRLINE AUG 10 AS HAVING BEEN REACHED WITHOUT THINKING AND AS OPERATION DESTINED TO FAIL. EBAN ALLEGEDLY ADDED IT IRONIC THAT FONMIN IS CALLED ON TO PICK UPPIECES AFTER INCIDENTS LIKE AUG 10 AND ISRAELI SHOOTDOWN OF LIBYAN AIRLINER. FONMIN SOURCES ACCORDING TO MARALIT HAVE INSISTED REPORT NOT TRUE AND THAT EBAN AUG 23 ONLY EXPLAINED VIEWS CURRENT IN ISRAEL APPROVING AND DISAPPROVING AUG 10 ACTION (DISAPPROVING VIEW WAS REPORTEDLY BASED BY EBAN ON COMMENTS BY ISRAELI CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIS). MARGALIT ADDS MRS MEIR SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE NEWS BLACKOUT ON REPORT OF EBAN'S AUG 23 CRITICAL REMARKS OUT OF CONERN THAT REPORT WOULD EMBARRASS ISRAEL.

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2. COMMENT: IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SORT OUT FACT AND FANCY IN STORY LIKE MARGALIT'S. BUT WE BELIEVE, BASED ON OTHER

INDICATIONS, THAT GENERAL THRUST IS TRUE. MRS MEIR CAN ONLY
BE UNHAPPY WITH FACT EBAN IS OPENLY CRITICAL OF ACTION SHE
APPROVED AND WHICH IS CAUSING ISRAEL SUCH PROBLEMS IN
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
KEATING

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